

States of America and it was stressed that bilateral and multilateral efforts were complementary. One delegation observed that the bilateral negotiations have little relation to the more general question of the prevention of an arms race in outer space because they are limited to issues connected with the interpretation of and compliance with the 1972 Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems. Many delegations emphasized that those negotiations did not diminish the urgency of multilateral negotiations and reaffirmed that, as provided for in General Assembly resolution 43/70, the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, had the primary role in the negotiation of a multilateral agreement or agreements, as appropriate, on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects. They also stressed that the scope of the work of the Conference on Disarmament was global and larger than the scope of the bilateral negotiations. Some other delegations, while recognizing the need for the Conference to play a role with respect to problems relating to the prevention of an arms race in outer space, stressed that nothing should be done that would hinder the success of the bilateral negotiations. Furthermore, they believed that multilateral disarmament measures in this area could not be considered independently of developments at the bilateral level. It was also stated that despite the special responsibility and obligation of the two principle space Powers, the regulation of outer space and the prevention of an arms race in that environment could not be left entirely to bilateral negotiations between the two major Powers and at the propitious time, the Conference on Disarmament would have to play its role in this field.

12. Many delegations, reiterating that outer space is the common heritage of mankind and should be reserved exclusively for peaceful uses to promote the scientific, economic and social development of all nations, stressed the over-riding importance and urgency of preventing an arms race in outer space. They pointed out that the exploration and use of outer space should be carried out in the interests of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international co-operation and mutual understanding. They stated that military competition between the two major powers was being extended into outer space, leading to the development, testing and possible deployment of weapons systems and their components adaptable for use in or from space. In their view, the introduction of weapons into space would result in an